



# **The Shirt Off Your Back Textile Forum**

## ***The State of Textile Recycling, Reuse, and Repair Today***

***Summary for Seattle SWAC***

***Heather Trim***

***Zero Waste Washington***

***Nov 7, 2018***

# David Stitzhal





## Climate Change Impacts From Clothing Production

- In 2015, emissions from polyester production equaled the annual emissions of **185** coal-fired power plants.
- Apparel & footwear industries account for **8%** of global greenhouse gas emissions.



The average American throws away **68+ pounds** of clothing and textiles per year.

From 2000 to 2014, textiles **increased 71%** in the municipal waste stream.





Locally, there are about **35,970 tons** of textiles in the King County & Seattle annual waste streams combined.



Nationally, from 2010-2014, textile diversion rates remained stagnant, at round **15%**.



# Local Efforts



**Big Brothers Big Sisters**  
Puget Sound

**Goodwill**  
Because jobs change lives



**Northwest Center**  
People of all abilities



**usagain**  
use it again



**King County**

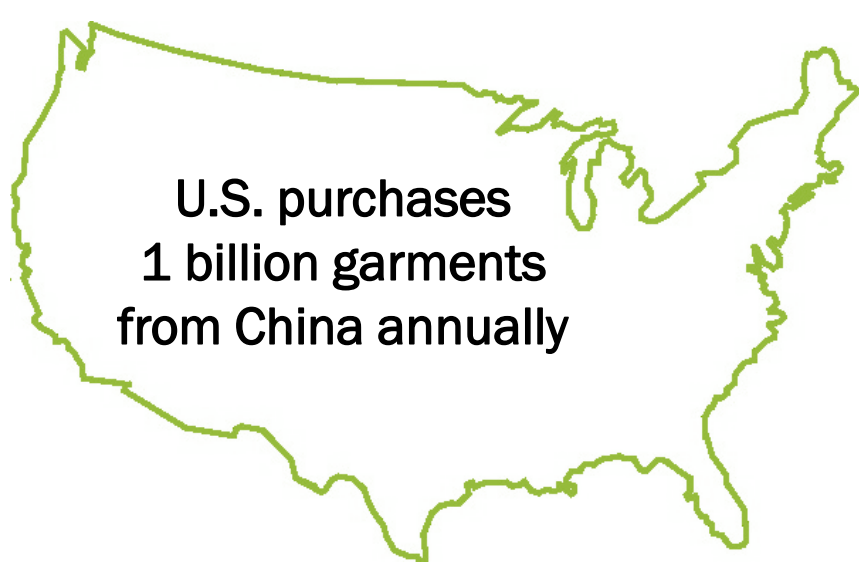
**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**

Since 2014, the number of countries that ban or regulate used clothing imports has more than doubled.

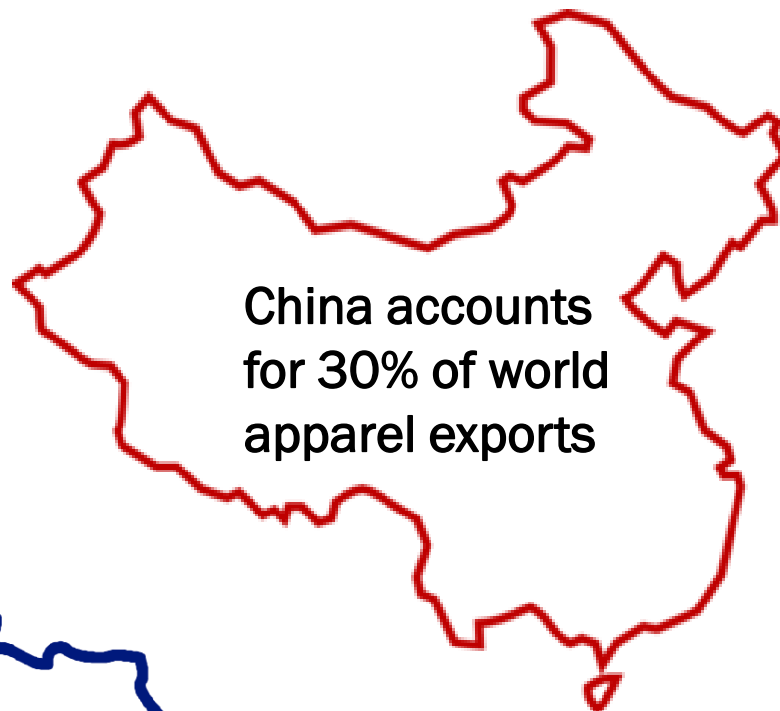


In the U.S., only 10-20% of donated items are re-sold locally by retailers and charitable organizations.





U.S. purchases  
1 billion garments  
from China annually



China accounts  
for 30% of world  
apparel exports



Used clothes from U.S. thrift  
markets

**MORE EXPENSIVE THAN**  
New clothes from China





## Recycling Isn't Enough

**FAST FASHION:** New styles at low cost, with 52 micro-seasons per year and a new trend out every week.

**GOAL:** Buy as many garments as possible, as quickly as possible.

**OPPORTUNITY:** Come together and focus on the need to **cut consumption** and **prevent waste** in the first place.



## Key Themes

- 1) Profit & Scalability
- 2) Segmentation
- 3) Inclusivity & Intersectionality
- 4) Economic Development & Policy
- 5) Metrics



## Big Questions

- Is it better to join a program or create a new one?
- Which partners allow the greatest opportunity to leverage change?
- Who are the “unlikely” partners to bring into the conversation?
- Would it be useful to reframe the whole clothing waste prevention conversation?
- What metrics do we create and track?
- And, what criteria do we use to measure success?



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# Kamal Patel



LINEAR ECONOMY



RECYCLING  
ECONOMY



CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY



Empowering  
circular futures

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# April Atwood



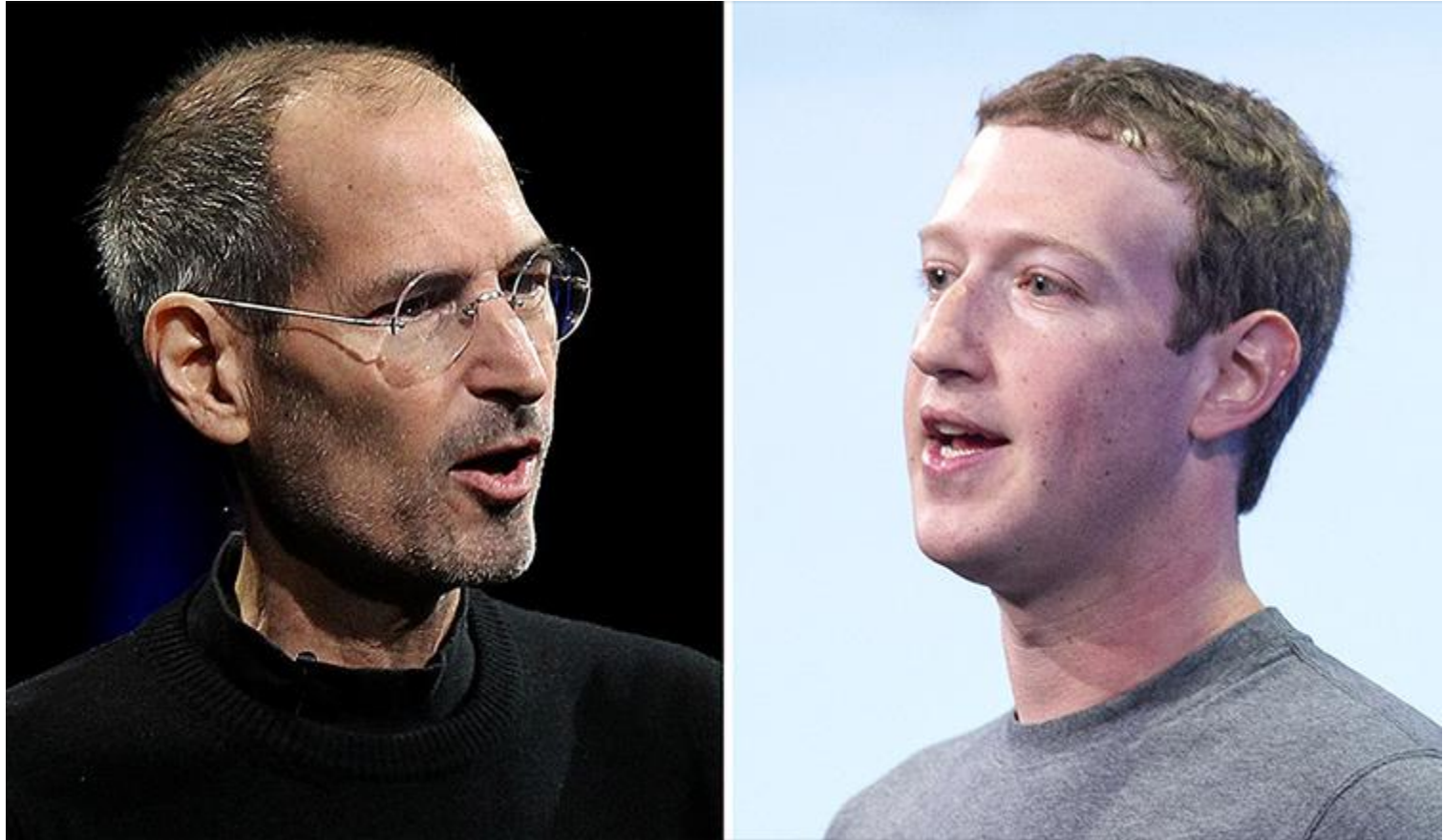


## recent informal survey: Millennials

- my class of Millennials (early to mid-20s)
- varied!
  - most typically spend \$150 or less/month on clothing but several spend \$300 or more per month, every month
  - the majority did more than ½ of their clothes shopping in person at a store; <20% did a majority of clothes shopping online
  - most donated unwanted clothes to a charity or thrift store or gave them away to friends/family
  - most have never put old clothes in a recycle bin; some admitted to putting them in the trash
  - most have NOT sold clothes online or at a consignment store (! ThredUp, Poshmark?)

# Trend: capsule wardrobe





capsule wardrobe influencers





# Trend: don't buy....rent!



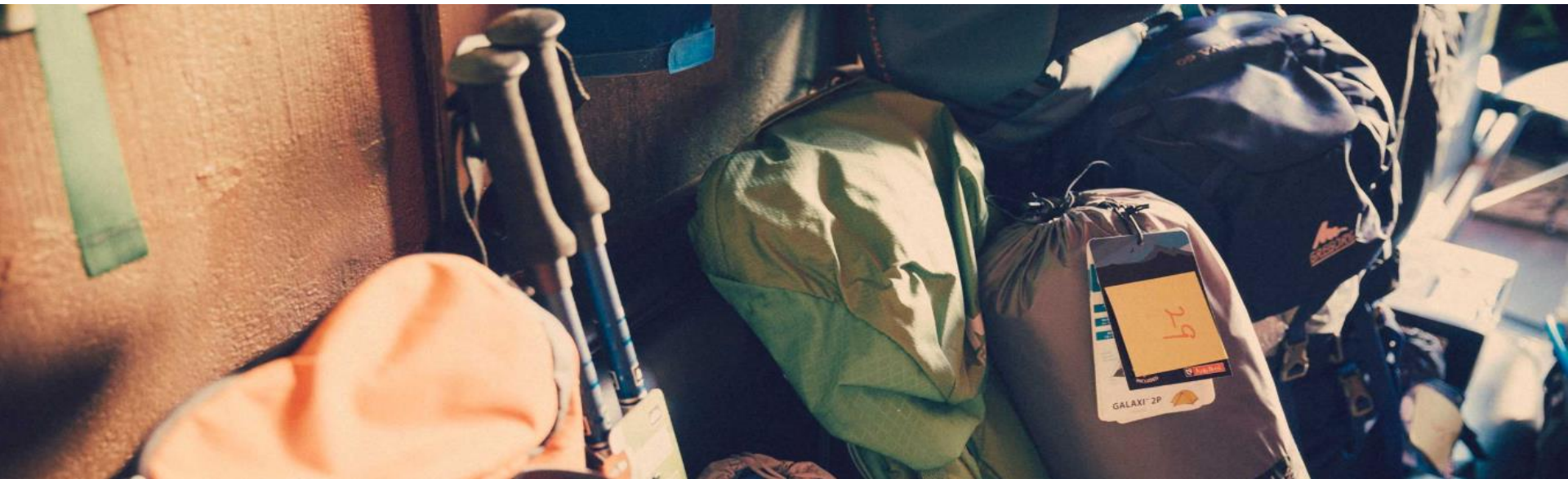
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# Solutions





# GEAR THAT LASTS - Resale





## THE RENEWAL SYSTEM

The Renewal Workshop makes it easy for apparel brands and retailers to become circular. We operate a zero-waste system that recovers the natural and financial value from clothing and textiles to serve customers, partners and the planet.

**The Renewal Workshop enables the Circular Economy for the apparel industry.**









# LIFESTYLE



METAMORPHIC







# Thank You

